



Official Name		उशीर	
English Name		Vetiver/Khas	
Botanical Name		Vetiveria zizanioides (L.) Nash	
Family		Poaceae (घास कुल)	
Taxonomical classification		Kingdom- Plantae Subkingdom – Tracheobionta Superdivision – Spermatophyta Division – Magnoliophyta Class – Liliopsida Subclass – Commelinidae Order – Poales Family – Poaceae Genus – Vetiveria Species – zizanioides	
Synonyms		उशीर, नलद, सुरभी, वेला	
Habitat		Native to India and widely cultivated in tropical regions including southeast Asia and Africa; commonly found in plains, reiverbanks, and wastelands	
Botanical Identification	Habit	Perennial, tufted, aromatic grass	
	Root	Fibrous, fragrant and strong – used medicinally	

			and for perfumery	
	Stem/Bark		Erect culms, cylindrical, jointed and hollow	
	Leaves	Phyllotaxy	Alternate	
		Simple/Compound	Simple	
		Lamina	Linear	
		Texture	Rough	
		Tip	Pointed	
		Base	Sheathing	
		Margins	Entire	
		Venation	Parallel	
		Petiole	Absent	
	Inflorescence		Terminal Panicles	
	Flower		Spikelets, bisexual, sessile	
Floral formula/ Diagram		Not commonly illustrated in classical texts		

	Fruit		Caryopsis (typical grass fruit)	
Types	North Indian vetiver (<i>vetiveria zizanioides</i>) – preferred for medicine and oil South Indian vetiver (<i>vetiveria nemoralis</i>) – also used in perfumery			
Rasapanchaka	रस- तिक्त, मधुर गुण लघु, रुक्ष वीर्य- शीत विपाक- कट दोषकर- पित्तशामक, रक्तशोधक			
Chemical Constituents	Vetiverol, vetivone, khusimol (essential oils)		Terpenoids, hydrocarbons sesquiterpenes	

Market information	Vetiver essential oil is a significant export item; India and Indonesia are major producers. The global vetiver oil market is valued over USD 60 million with steady demand in perfumery and pharmaceuticals.
Adulteration/Substitution	Adulteration with roots of similar grasses like <i>Andropogon muricatus</i>
Cultivation	Planted during June-July Soil – Prefers sandy loam or clayey soils: tolerates drought and flooding
Flowering season	Late summer to early autumn
Harvesting	Roots harvested after 12-18 months of planting
Present status – Not concerned/Endangered/Extinct	Not Concerned
Conservation method	Cultivation encouraged through agroforestry and aromatic plantations

Main Uses	शीतल, पित्तशामक, रक्तशोधक, मूत्रल, दीपनीय, शोधहर, तृषाहरण	
Part Used	Roots	
Dose	Medicinal Dose	Root decoction – 25-50 ml
	Toxic Dose	Nil
	Fatal Dose	Nil
Antidote or treatment (If any)	NIL	
Purification (If any)	Washing and drying before use in formulations	
Formulations	उशीरासव, उशीरादि चूर्ण, उशीर काथ	
Rogadhikara	रक्तपित्त, तृषा, मूत्रकृच्छ्र, शोथ, ज्वर	
Reference	भै.र., चरक संहिता, सुश्रुत संहिता, आयुर्वेद सार संग्रह	